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*Disinfection of the steamship Belgic at Yokohama.*YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, *October 22, 1898.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that, in accordance with the arrangement with the Japanese Government, of which I notified you under date of 10th instant, and the operation of the new harbor regulations sent to you at the same time, the steamship *Belgic*, upon which a case of semi-confluent smallpox developed on the voyage from Kobe to Yokohama, on her arrival here yesterday morning was immediately sent to the Japanese quarantine station for disinfection.

The ship was detained in quarantine for twenty-four hours, and was visited by me prior to her liberation, at which visit I satisfied myself that, so far as the case in question is concerned, with the exception of the disinfection of the crew, all requisite precautions had been taken, comprehending the bathing of all steerage passengers, the disinfection of their clothing and bedding by steam, and the fumigation and, after, washing of the steerage quarters with disinfecting solution.

This is the first case of the detection of infectious disease on ship-board that has occurred since the new regulations have taken effect, and I found some little difficulty in securing the performance of even this, perhaps, somewhat incomplete purification, as the Japanese scarcely treat smallpox as a quarantinable disease, relying upon frequent vaccination as the great preventive. I hope, before meeting with any similar emergency again, to be able to arrange with the authorities that the crew shall invariably be included in the process of disinfection, or at least all those who can, by any possibility, have been exposed to infection.

I may add that the sending of the *Belgic* to the quarantine station was done with the full concurrence of the agent and officers, who hope that the performance of a more thorough disinfection here than has hitherto been possible, and provided no further case occurs during the voyage, may exempt them from the annoying and expensive quarantine which has so often been necessary at San Francisco.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

STUART ELDRIDGE, M. D.,
Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

TURKESTAN.

*Plague in Samarcand.*ST. PETERSBURG, *October 31, 1898.*

SIR: Confirming my telegram of the 28th instant, copy of which find appended on the overleaf, I now have the honor to inclose translation of a note with its inclosure from the imperial ministry of foreign affairs giving the facts regarding the appearance of bubonic plague in the government of Samarcand, concerning which Count Lamsdorff spoke to me on the occasion of my interview with him on his last reception day. Believing that the information could not fail to be of interest, and might possibly be of instant importance, I telegraphed you as above referred to.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

HERBERT H. D. PEIRCE.

Hon. SECRETARY OF STATE.